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# **GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY PEKING MILITARY REGION FALL/WINTER TRAINING CYCLE (1974-75)**

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JULY 1975

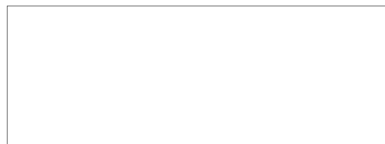
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**GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY PEKING MILITARY  
REGION FALL/WINTER TRAINING CYCLE (1974-1975)**

**ABSTRACT**

1. This report summarizes the major ground forces training activity observed in the Peking Military Region [REDACTED]. Included are one map and six annotated photographs.

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**INTRODUCTION**

2. Extensive ground forces training was observed in Peking Military Region (MR) during the fall/winter training cycle (1974/1975). Approximately 95 percent of the region was covered on nearly cloud-free photography. Activity included armor, field artillery (FA), anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), and combined arms training. The majority of the training took place in the Hopeh Military District (MD); exercises were also noted in Shansi MD and in Inner Mongolia MD. Figure 1 shows the location of the major training exercises discussed in this report.

3. Although the level of training activity in Peking MR was, in most instances, higher than that seen in the other MRs in China, it did coincide with the countrywide fall/winter training cycle. Similar training activity was occurring throughout China during these months. In addition to the major ground forces training exercises described below, numerous small-scale exercises were also observed during this timeframe.

**BASIC DESCRIPTION**

**Armor Training**

4. Four armor training exercises were observed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] we observed elements of an armor regiment training in an area extending approximately 21 nautical miles (nm) east and ten nm south of Ta-tung Training Area [REDACTED] Shansi MD (item 1, Figure 1). The equipment included 101 tank/assault guns, three probable tank/assault guns, three armored vehicles, nine artillery pieces, 62 cargo trucks, and 51 probable cargo trucks. The equipment was parked in villages throughout the area. Extensive trenching, track activity, and numerous vehicles were also present.

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5. A second armor training exercise was observed [REDACTED] in a 42 square nm area approximately 8 nm southeast of Chi-ning Army Barracks and AL 4 Defense Area [REDACTED] Inner Mongolia MD (item 2, Figure 1). Again, the equipment noted was dispersed in villages and included at least 18 tanks, 32 tank/assault guns, 59 tracked vehicles, 54 cargo trucks, 14 probable cargo trucks, and 15 vehicles/pieces of equipment.

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6. A third armor training exercise was observed on [REDACTED] at Ma-shen-chiao Army Barracks Northeast AL 1 [REDACTED] Hopeh MD (item 3, Figure 1). Equipment included 42 probable tanks and 26 probable armored vehicles. The equipment was parked at or near a live firing range which showed signs of recent heavy use (Figure 2).

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7. [REDACTED] also revealed a smaller armor training exercise 33 nm south of Shih-chia-chuang, Hopeh MD, at 37-21-00N 114-18-00E (item 4, Figure 1). Ten probable Type-59 tanks, one probable M-1967 armored personnel carrier and 35 cargo trucks were dispersed throughout the training area.

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**Field Artillery Training**

8. Three FA exercises were observed [REDACTED] a rocket launcher and FA exercise was observed approximately 35 nm south of Hsuan-hua, Hopeh MD, at 40-00-35N 115-00-00E (item 5, Figure 1). Equipment included 25 BM-14/17 rocket launchers, four BM-13 rocket launchers, 19 field guns, and 76 cargo trucks. The rocket launchers (Figure 3) and the FA were dispersed separately.

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9. A regimental-size live firing artillery exercise was observed in progress 17 nm east of Chi-hsien, Hopeh MD (item 6, Figure 1), on [redacted]. The firing area was between 40-02-30N 117-44-35E and 40-01-55N 117-44-30E and included 30 field guns dispersed in three groups nine, ten, and 11 respectively (Figure 4). Some of the pieces were not covered. The impact area was centered on a frozen reservoir 8.0 nm down range. At least 164 craters were counted in three major groupings on the ice (Figure 4). This firing exercise took place in a densely populated area with at least 25 villages within 2 nm of the firing azimuth.

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10. Another combined FA and rocket launcher exercise was observed approximately 8 nm east of Ching-hai, Hopeh MD, at 38-51-00N 117-04-00E [redacted] (item 7, Figure 1). Equipment included 18 BM 14/17 rocket launchers, three BM-13 rocket launchers, and 30 field guns. The field guns were dispersed in or near three villages in groups of 12, 12, and six while the rocket launchers were all near a fourth village.

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#### Antiaircraft Artillery Training

11. The only AAA exercise in Peking MR was observed [redacted] at the Ku-cheng Training Area [redacted] in the vicinity of Ku-cheng Airfield [redacted] Hopeh MD (item 8, Figure 1). This exercise involved major elements of an AAA division. Equipment included 68 medium and 29 light AA guns, 30 pieces of fire control equipment, and 168 trucks. Several batteries were set up in firing positions and in some instances netting was used to camouflage the guns and equipment (Figure 5).

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#### Combined Arms Training

12. Three combined arms exercises were observed in Peking MR [redacted] combined arms training was observed 21 nm south of Shih-chia-chuang, Hopeh MD, at 37-42-20N 114-23-25E (item 9, Figure 1). The training area, 6 nm in diameter, contained a large tank training course, extensive track activity, personnel trenches, and anti-tank trenching. The equipment which was dispersed throughout the area included 17 Type-59 tanks, 35 FA pieces, and 110 cargo trucks.

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13. [redacted] a combined arms exercise was observed 10 nm north of Wu-ching, Hopeh MD, at 39-32-00N 117-10-00E (item 10, Figure 1). Equipment observed in this exercise included 25 tanks, 54 field guns, and one FRESCO aircraft. The FA was dispersed in five villages; however, the majority of the FA (28 pieces) was parked in one village. All 25 tanks were parked on the edge of one village. Bombing markers had been laid out, and a FRESCO appeared to be on an approach run to the markers.

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14. The third combined arms training was observed 4 nm northeast of I-hsin, Hopeh MD at 39-25-50N 115-33-00E (item 11, Figure 1). [redacted] provided post exercise coverage of the training area and showed 11 six-gun FA positions, fortified infantry positions on hilltops, and numerous tracked vehicle tracks extending over the hills (Figure 6). The hilltop positions were numbered on the ground. [redacted] 12 FA pieces parked on the south edge of a village in the training area. [redacted] 20 tanks, 17 cargo trucks, and three POL trucks were parked at a road junction in the same area.

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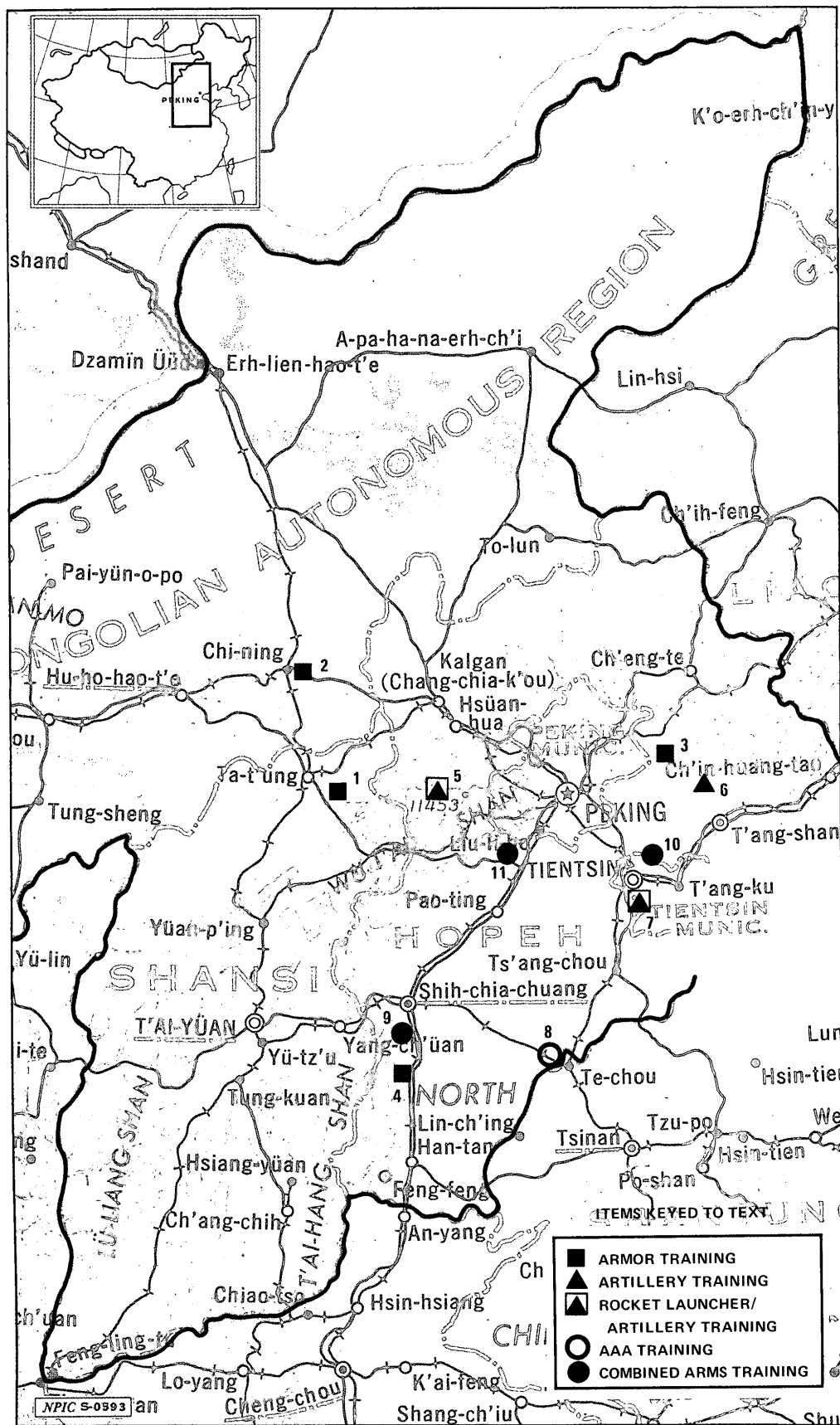


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY PEKING MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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